



## U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Visits Utah

Veterans Secretary Working to Improve Benefit Access to Rural Vets

On July 6<sup>th</sup> the Utah Veterans Hospital was visited by Retired U.S. Army General and current U.S. Secretary of Veteran's Affairs, Eric K. Shinseki. He was visiting Utah — for the very first time ever — as part of a tour to connect with the facilities of the western states.

President Barack Obama tapped General Shinseki in 2008 to serve as only the 7<sup>th</sup> Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Previously, Shinseki served as Chief of Staff of the United States Army from 1999 to 2003. He retired from active duty in 2003.

The Secretary said that it was Utah's geography that presented the greatest challenge for veterans who live in rural areas throughout the state to get adequate medical attention when they need it. He announced that a new rural health director had been appointed who has experience in Native American issues and health services. Shinseki believes that experience will be of particular importance to Utah's Vets.

"We want to ensure there's a level playing field here, that a veteran who lives in a highly-rural area and a veteran who lives in Washington, D.C., will have the same kind of access," Shinseki said.



Melba Wahlen, center left, and daughters meet with Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki at the George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center (Salt Lake). The VAMC is named after Medal of Honor recipient, the late George E. Wahlen. To the left of Shinseki are Terry Schow, Director, Utah Department of Veteran Affairs, and Dr. Ronald Gebhart, VAMC Chief of Staff

He also related that the Department's Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Task Force was completing a comprehensive report that will redefine how VA addresses the pain and suffering many of the Veterans who deployed during the Gulf War in 1990 and 1991 are experiencing. This Task Force began by building on the findings from the VA's 2008 Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Illnesses.

"At VA, we advocate for Veterans — it is our overarching philosophy and, in time, it will become

our culture," Secretary Shinseki said. "Every day we must challenge our assumptions to serve our Nation's veterans."

The mission of Gulf War Task Force is to identify gaps in services as well as opportunities to better serve the veterans of the Gulf War. Almost 700,000 service members deployed to Operation Desert Shield in 1990 and Operation Desert Storm in 1991. There are 300,000 Gulf War veterans with claims decisions, and slightly more than 85% have been granted service connection for at least one condition.

## Watch for the Upcoming Utah Department of Veterans Affairs Events



VA Homeless Veterans Stand Down  
Job and Benefit Fair  
Veterans Day Telethon  
State Capitol  
Dedication of Veterans Tribute Tower

5 November 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
10 November 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
11 November 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
11 November 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon  
11 November 3:00 p.m.

VA Medical Center  
SouthTowne Expo Center  
Channel 2 News Studio, 299  
Veterans Day Tribute  
George E. Wahlen Veterans' Home



From the Editor’s Desk . . .

I’m sure most of our regular readers will notice right off some changes to the content and format of this issue of the *Voice*. I hope you will like it. The paper has changed editorial hands once again, but nothing too radical is in the offing — for I’m certain the Publisher would not permit it. And, it is a truism that an Editor will unequivocally wear the scars of his or her literary transgressions long after the ink has faded and the paper yellowed. I do hope, however, to bring some enthusiasm, humor, variety, and even a touch of controversy to the content of the articles we publish.

Robert Welsh



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1/4 Page (5x8): \$160  
1/8 Page (5x4): \$100  
1/16 page (2x5): \$ 50

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It’s your *Voice*, let it be heard

USE YOUR VOICE!!!  
Send Letters to:  
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Stolen Valor Act in Jeopardy

By Robert Welsh

The following article reflects the opinions of the Editor, but not necessarily those of the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs, its staff, or directorate.

The U.S. Justice Department is going to appeal two court decisions which declare that a federal law making it illegal to lie about being a war hero is unconstitutional. The Stolen Valor Act, signed into law by President George W. Bush in December 2006, is legislation that has broadened the provisions of previous a U.S. law which addressed the unauthorized wear, manufacture, sale or claim (either written or oral) of any military decorations and medals. The law makes it a crime punishable by up to a year in jail to falsely claim to have received a military medal.

Now, from the same zany folks who ruled the words “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional, and that convicted killer Kevin Cooper is innocent, comes the opinion of a Constitution-supported right to lie. That’s right, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has done it again.

In California, Xavier Alvarez, a local water board official and habitual liar, was indicted in 2007 after he stated at a public forum that he was a retired Marine who had received the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest military decoration. Alvarez never served in the military. He pleaded guilty but on the condition that he would be allowed to appeal on First Amendment grounds. The 9th Circuit ruled 2-1 in his favor in August.

In Colorado, Rick Strandlof, who founded a Veterans group in Colorado Springs, was arrested in 2009 after claiming he was an ex-Marine who was wounded in Iraq and had received the Purple Heart and Silver Star. Strandlof, too, never served a day.

These are clearly examples of judicial over-reach. Overturning sensible regulation on purely perceptive grounds underscores the dangerous trend of some federal judges of late who imposed their own opinions and preferences over the will of the people and their elected representatives.

Then there is the case of Brigadier General Baxter. Actually, it is PFC Baxter posturing as a retired Brigadier General.



Baxter was actually in the Army, and he even did a year in Vietnam driving landing craft, apparently. He served from January 1966 to December 1968, and was discharged as a Private First Class. His earned no awards beyond the three medals everyone got just for going to Vietnam.

In the photos above he is sporting the CIB, Master Jump Wings, and Special Forces and Ranger insignia. The potential for fraudulent activities on those sympathetic to the military is a very real potential problem.

The list of “outed” imposters is not exclusively one of pathetic misfits and fantasy goofs. In 1989, actor Brian Dennehy told *The New York Times* that he suffered a concussion and shrapnel wounds in combat, and in 1993 he told *Playboy* he served five years in Vietnam. Although Dennehy did in fact serve in the Marine Corps from 1959 to 1963, his only overseas assignment was to Okinawa. He apologized for lying in 1999 after winning the Tony Award for best leading actor in *Death of a Salesman*.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Utah Dept of Veterans Affairs:  
Toll Free:

(801) 326-2372  
1-800-894-9497

VA Regional Office:  
VA Medical Center:

1-800-827-1000  
1-800-613-4012

Local:  
Veterans Cemetery:  
Veterans Nursing Home:  
Transition Assistance:

(801) 582-1565  
(801) 254-9036  
(801) 584-1900  
(801) 523-4937





## Clio, The Muse of History

### Women at War

Margaret Corbin was born in what is now Franklin County in western Pennsylvania in 1751. In 1756, when she was 5 years old, Margaret's parents were attacked by a band of Indians. Her father was killed and her mother was kidnapped. Margaret was not at home during the raid, and thus escaped a similar fate. She lived with her uncle for the rest of her childhood. In 1772 Margaret married John Corbin, a Virginia farmer.

So, what's so special about Margaret Corbin ... ?

Well, Margaret Corbin distinguished herself as being one of the first woman to fight in the American Revolutionary War, and the first to receive a pension for doing so. When her husband John enlisted in the Continental Army, Margaret joined the battalion of "Camp Followers" that accompanied their soldier husbands. This was a commonplace occurrence, as the followers provided much-needed support in cooking, laundry, and caring for the sick and injured. For this they were granted a daily half ration. Margaret was no milquetoast, and her forceful personality earned her the nickname "Captain Molly" from the other wives in the camp.

On November 16th, 1776, 4,000 Hessians troops under British command attacked Fort Washington in northern Manhattan. Her husband John was on a cannon crew that was systematically being torn to pieces by enemy fire. Then John was killed. Margaret ran to the position and continued loading and firing the cannon until she, too, was wounded by grapeshot, which tore through her shoulder, chest, and jaw. Grapeshot was an artillery round that blasted lead balls in much the same way as a shotgun or grenade does.

When the British captured the fort, Margaret was treated and allowed to leave ("paroled") with the rest of the wounded Colonists. She never fully recovered from her wounds, and was left without use of her left arm for the rest of her life. Life was difficult for her because of her injury, and in 1779 she received aid from the government.

On June 29th, Pennsylvania granted her \$30 to cover her present needs, and forwarded her case on to Congress. On July 6th, 1779 Congress granted her half the monthly pay of a soldier in the Continental Army and a new set of clothes or its equivalent in cash. They were extremely impressed with her service and bravery. This action made Margaret the first woman in the United States to receive a pension from Congress.

From then on Margaret was included on military rolls until the end of the war. She was enrolled in the Corps of Invalids, created by Congress for wounded soldiers. She was discharged from the Continental Army in 1783.

Margaret died in Highland Falls, New York, on January 16, 1800, at the young age of 48. An autopsy showed the left side of her face, chest, upper arm, and left shoulder were badly damaged.

The Daughters of the American Revolution had Margaret's Corbin's remains reburied in 1926 with full military honors at the cemetery of the United States Military Academy at West Point behind the Old Cadet Chapel. She is the only Revolutionary War soldier to be buried there.

*Requiescat in pacem.*

## VA Begins Paying Benefits for New Agent Orange Claims

### VA Encourages Affected Vietnam Veterans to File Claims

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun distributing disability benefits to Vietnam Veterans who qualify for compensation under recently liberalized rules for Agent Orange exposure. "The joint efforts of Congress and VA demonstrate a commitment to provide Vietnam Veterans with treatment and compensation for the long-term health effects of herbicide exposure," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

Up to 200,000 Vietnam Veterans are potentially eligible to receive VA disability compensation for medical conditions recently associated with Agent Orange. The expansion of coverage involves B-cell (or hairy-cell) leukemia, Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease.

Shinseki said VA has launched a variety of initiatives – both technological and involving better business practices – to tackle an anticipated upsurge in Agent Orange-related claims. "These initiatives show VA's ongoing resolve to modernize its processes for handling claims through automation and improvements in doing business, providing Veterans with faster and more accurate decisions on their applications for benefits," Shinseki said.

Providing initial payments – or increases to existing payments – to the 200,000 Veterans who now qualify for disability compensation for these three conditions is expected to take several months, but VA officials encourage all Vietnam Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and suffer from one of the three diseases to make sure their applications have been submitted.

VA has offered Veterans exposed to Agent Orange special access to health care since 1978, and priority medical care since 1981. VA has been providing disability compensation to Veterans with medical problems related to Agent Orange since 1985.

## Retroactive Stop Loss Pay (RSLSP) Deadline Extended

*As your commander in chief, I'm here to tell you that this is no gimmick or trick. You worked hard. You earned this money. It doesn't matter whether you were Active or Reserve, whether you're a veteran who experienced 'stop loss' or the survivor of a service member who did — if your service was extended, you're eligible.*

President Barack Obama

15 September 2010

### Calling All Stop-Loss Service Members...

Time is running out for those who qualify to receive their Stop Loss Special Pay. The deadline to claim it is October 21st, but less than half of the more than 145,000 people eligible have submitted claims.

It's not a scam. And it's not a joke. It's YOUR money, so come get it.

Just in case you had forgotten, the 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act authorized retroactive stop loss special pay of \$500 for every month/partial month served in stop loss status.

Service members, veterans, and beneficiaries of service members who were involuntarily extended under stop loss between 9/11 and September 30th 2009 are eligible.

The Congress generously set aside \$534.4 million to pay out those funds, but as of the end of last month only \$219 million in claims have been paid.

We've used all kinds of different ways to reach out to people and let them know, including letters to homes and help from Veteran/Military Service Organizations. But there are still those who have yet to apply.

So, with the deadline fast approaching, I'm asking everyone who reads this . . . to pass it on to anyone else you think needs to see it. Qualifying individuals have served — or are still serving — their country nobly and deserve to be paid the money they've earned.

The application process is simple and straightforward. No strings attached. But once the deadline passes, we cannot by law extend it. So jump online and check it out at:

[www.defense.gov/stoploss](http://www.defense.gov/stoploss). It's your money.

Admiral Mike Mullen

### General Procedure

#### Those Eligible Must Submit a Claim By December 3rd, 2010

To receive this benefit, those who served under stop loss must submit a claim for the special pay. Throughout the year, the services have been reaching out to service members, veterans, and their families through direct mail, veteran service organizations, and the media. But there is still money left to be claimed, and the deadline is approaching. The average benefit is something more than \$3,000.

Visit your specific service's website and submit your application online. This will generate a claim number, allow automated status updates, and provide a way for the branch of service to contact you.

The following sites provide additional information and allow you to begin the claim process:



Army

877-736-5554

Website: <https://www.stoplosspay.army.mil>

Navy

901-874-4427

Website: [http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/MILPERSMAN/7000FinancialMgmt/7220\\_410.htm](http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/MILPERSMAN/7000FinancialMgmt/7220_410.htm)

Marine Corps

877-242-2830

Website: <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/stoploss>

Air Force

800-525-0102

Website: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss>

If you do not have internet access, obtain a copy of Department of Defense Form 2944, Claim for Retroactive Stop Loss Payment. Fill it out completely and choose the appropriate method to submit the form and other supporting documents.

Some Highlights of the Legislation:

- Prevents exercise of early termination fees for certain contracts (e.g., residential and cell phone service leases) for troops who receive orders to relocate to areas that do not support that particular contract
- Reinststitutes the VA work-study program, and expands the type of work available for veterans who participate
- Requires the VA to verify and maintain a database of veteran-owned small businesses to root out businesses that fraudulently claim to be veteran-owned
- Authorizes \$10 million in grants from the Department of Labor to provide dedicated services for homeless women veterans and homeless Veterans with children (e.g., child-care services, training, counseling, and job placement services)
- Permits 100 % disabled veterans to receive free Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance coverage for two years following separation from active or reserve duty
- Increases Veterans’ burial benefits to \$700

Lost DD-214 Papers Being Recovered

by Larry Dawson

The Utah Department of Veterans Affairs has a large database of DD-214s and other military separation documents for Utah’s Veterans. The records they have, however, are separation documents primarily from World War II, and DD-214s from 1980 onward. There is a large gap in the records from 1947 to 1979.

Currently, Utah Veterans seeking copies of their records that fell into that gap (from Korea to Post-Vietnam) have as their only choice to request them from the National Repository in St. Louis, Missouri. Mr. Terry Schow, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs, knew from his experience with the Department of Social Services and then the Department Human Services that the DD 214’s had been filed with those agencies but could not be located.

Through the coordination of the three state agencies, the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Human Services, and the Utah State Archives, rolls of microfiche have been identified that contain these discharge records. Estimates indicate there may be as many as 2,200 discharge records in these collections. These records are currently being extracted, and hopes are that the project will be completed by January 2011. This will help close yet another gap in the records that the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs maintains.

This cache of records is of great assistance because of the 1973 fire in the National Archives depository at St. Louis that destroyed many separation records. There have been many cases where Veterans and family members have found records in Utah’s database that were burned in the St. Louis fire.

It is suggested that Veterans whose mailing address upon discharge was Utah, contact the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs to see if the records are part of its collection. Please call 801-326-2372 or 800-894-9497. Members of the staff can research the database and assist if the records need to be obtained in St. Louis.

Spotlight on Veterans Organizations



The Greatest Casualty Is Being Forgotten

[www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org)

The Wounded Warrior Project is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization now headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida, with additional program offices located in New York City and Washington D.C. The WWP was initially founded in Roanoke, Virginia, by a group of veterans and friends who took action to help the injured service men and women of this generation.

The resulting objective was to provide tangible support for the wounded and help them on the road to healing, both physically and mentally. What had been initially viewed as a small contribution (compared with what the warriors had sacrificed while serving our country) has become WWP’s signature program: “WWP Backpacks Delivered Bedside to Wounded Warriors.”

Wounded Warrior Project believes in the power of nature and recreation to help warriors dealing with combat stress. Project Odyssey, one of many programs offered by WWP, is an outdoor rehabilitative retreat that combines adventure challenges with opportunities for peer support and group processing, was created to support warriors in their recovery from combat stress. Recreational experiences ranging from rock climbing in the Black Hills of South Dakota to herding cattle on Wildcatter Ranch encourage personal growth among participants and team building within the warrior community.

In conjunction with the National Park Service, Project Odyssey takes place on a variety of geographical locations over the course of five days. Past event sites include Wildcatter Resort & Ranch in Graham, Texas; Marriott Cocoa Beach in Miami, Florida; National Ability Center, Park City, Utah; and Acadia National Park in Maine. Each location offers a unique experience that is different from the last and varies based on geographical resources.

The Veterans Benefits Act of 2010

At this writing, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2010, which includes a respectable number of changes to existing VA programs and updates regarding the rights of deployed active duty troops, awaits the President’s signature. The White House is expected to sign the legislation into law.

The bill addresses a number of smaller, stand-alone Veterans benefits bills, including improved employment programs, better homeless outreach efforts, increased disabled veterans assistance, and research into future medical needs of returning soldiers.



Partnering with the Vet Centers across the country, Wounded Warrior Project recruits combat warriors from across the country who are currently enrolled in counseling services. Odyssey allows participants to continue their therapeutic journey in a dynamic setting with peers and support from WWP and Vet Center professionals.

WWP Outdoors allows veterans to be outdoors and active while hunting, fishing, shooting, camping, and boating, so they build friendships and have a feeling of empowerment in their healing process. Warriors to Work finds occupational direction and possible employment based on injured service members’ skill sets, interests, and employment opportunities. With outside groups, WWP develops tools for disabled applicants and employers. Two-day “Coping with Combat Stress” seminars help disabled and able-bodied service members deal with the effects of combat stress while reintegrating into civilian life.

The Wounded Warrior Service Excellence Scholar Program offers severely-injured veterans a stipend for living expenses during college while helping other injured service members. WWP Alumni provides assistance, communication, and camaraderie. WWP’s policy and advocacy program monitors, creates, and pursues legislative and policy changes to benefit active duty service members and disabled veterans of current military conflicts.

The Backpack Program provides comfort items in male and female versions to the severely wounded as they arrive at military trauma centers in the United States. A compact version is provided in Iraq and Afghanistan. WWP benefits counselors identify government benefits and services for patients in their communities and to re-enter civilian life. The Wounded Warrior Disabled Sports Project offers snow skiing, water skiing, canoeing, golf, cycling, and rock climbing to injured service members and their families, helping develop a positive self-image and outlook and combat depression. So, if you’re looking for a worthy cause to donate to, you could hardly find a better one.

# Last Draftee Bids Military Adieu

When Clyde Green got his government’s greetings letter in 1970, he was a typical adolescent who really did not want to be a soldier. There was, after all, a very brutal and unpopular war in a place called Vietnam and a noisome and at times violent peace movement all across America.

Though no one is absolutely certain, Clyde Green might well be — after 39 years of continuous active duty — the last U.S. Army draftee who fought in Vietnam to have made a career in the military.

He rose from enlisted man to chief warrant officer in military intelligence and served extended tours in Italy, South Korea, the Middle East, Asia, East Africa, and the one place he can least forget — Vietnam.

In our current milieu it is difficult to imagine the days when soldier wasn’t always by choice. America ended the draft in 1973.



is difficult to becoming a by choice. draft in 1973.

# The George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans’ Home



The George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans’ Home is holding a special dedication ceremony for the Veterans’ Tribute Tower on Veterans Day, November 11th, at 3 p.m. The Veterans’ Tribute Tower will be the first of its kind west of the Mississippi River. Please come and join the Veterans at the home in dedicating this beautiful tower. Those wishing to make donations or to purchase dedicatory bricks can do so at [www.veterans.utah.gov](http://www.veterans.utah.gov).

The George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans’ Home will be installing a new entry way stone. The red and white stone will designate the George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans Home and will depict a Navy Congressional Medal of Honor. This is of course the medal awarded to the home’s namesake — George E. Wahlen. The medal will be in color and is very beautiful.

# Vets Looking Forward to Additional Nursing Homes

By Dennis McFall, Deputy Director

Veterans are turning their attention to two additional veterans’ homes planned for southern and central Utah. VA Grants were approved in 2003 for a veterans’ nursing home in southern Utah and one in Utah County. The Utah State Legislature has agreed to use federal funds received as payment for the George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans Home as the required state share (35%) to construct these needed facilities. This far-sighted decision will accelerate the time frame for moving ahead with these facilities. Title to the veterans’ homes rests with the State of Utah through a State Home Construction Grant Program that provides cost sharing, enabling states to complete construction of long-term care facilities for the benefit of this nation’s heroes. In a state owned veterans’ home, the VA will pay for nearly one half the cost of care for the resident. In certain instances, e.g., where service connected disabilities are the reason the Veteran needs long term care, the amount paid by the VA covers 100% of the cost of care. This is only available to the Veteran if he or she is residing in a state owned facility.

Site locations for these two facilities have not been determined, but the funds have been appropriated for Utah and Washington counties. Land is needed in both locations — approximately 9-10 acres for

# Utah Veterans Cemetery Awarded Federal Grant

National Cemetery Administration gives \$260k for Improvements

The National Cemetery Administration in Washington, D.C., has awarded more than \$260 thousand dollars to the Utah Veterans Cemetery as part of a national program to help state owned veteran cemeteries. The announcement was made on October 4th by Mr. Frank K. Salvas, Sr., the director of NCA’s State Cemetery Grants Service.

The funds are awarded as part of a national program to help state owned veterans cemeteries meet NCA’s lofty “National Shrine Commitment” standards. Our Utah veterans cemetery plans to use the money to clean, repair, and improve the alignment of headstones and to remove patches of unsightly weeds grasses that have overrun some the burial areas — two of the most difficult problems for grounds personnel to correct.

“Overall the cemetery grounds are well groomed and look better than they ever have” said Laura Carson, one of the cemetery’s most experienced employees, “but as you walk across the burial areas you can see the headstones need to be raised and aligned if they are to look their best” she added.

The cemetery director is working with state agencies and private contractors to find ways to stretch the funds as far as possible.

“Federal funding like this could be a one-time only shot” said Craig Morgan, the cemetery director, “but our veterans expect us to do everything we can, to get the most we can, from this money” he affirmed.

Though there are several more steps to take, the project is expected to start as early as March 2011 and should be completed by this time next year.

More information about the project can be obtained by contacting the cemetery at 801-254-9036.





Continued from page 5

each home. Each will be constructed utilizing the same basic model as the George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans Home, but they will incorporate the VA’s “Culture Change” concept in both. One significant aspect of this concept is that each room will be private and each room will have its own bathroom. Other modifications will incorporate “at home” design and smaller communities that provide a community atmosphere rather than that of a medical setting. We, the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs, are currently seeking suitable land in the above counties. The VA does not cover land costs, and the State of Utah does not have the ability to purchase land for this use. Thus, we are seeking a donation of land upon which to build each of the facilities.

We invite you to ask questions about any aspect of the process, building, or the care that will be provided. If you are interested in employment, volunteer service, and/or learning more about contributing to the facilities in any manner, please call the Utah Department of Veterans’ Affairs at 801-326-2372 and we will be happy to provide additional information suited to your specific request.

VA Publishes Final Regulation on “Presumptive” Illnesses for Gulf War and Iraq, Afghanistan Veterans

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki has announced the publication of a final regulation in the Federal Register that makes it easier for Veterans to obtain Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and disability compensation for certain diseases associated with service in Southwest Asia (including Iraq) or Afghanistan.

“This is part of historic changes in how VA considers Gulf War Veterans’ illnesses,” said Secretary Shinseki. “By setting up scientifically based presumptions of service connection, we give these deserving Veterans a simple way to obtain the medical and compensation benefits they earned in service to our country.”

The final regulation establishes new presumptions of service connection for nine specific infectious diseases associated with military service in Southwest Asia beginning on or after the start of the first Gulf War on 2 August 1990, through the conflict in Iraq and on or after 19 September 2001, in Afghanistan.



The final regulation reflects a determination of a positive association between service in Southwest Asia or Afghanistan and nine diseases and includes information about the long-term health effects potentially associated with these diseases: (1) Brucellosis, (2) Campylobacter jejuni, (3) Coxiella Burnetii (Q fever), (4) Malaria, (5) Mycobacterium tuberculosis, (6) Nontyphoid Salmonella, (7) Shigella, (8) Visceral leishmaniasis, and (9) West Nile virus.

With the final rule, a Veteran will only have to show service in Southwest Asia or Afghanistan and that he or she had one of the nine diseases within a certain time after service and has a current disability as a result of that disease, subject to certain time limits for seven of the diseases. Most of these diseases would be diagnosed within one year of return from service, though some conditions may manifest at a later time.

For non-presumptive conditions, a Veteran is required to provide medical evidence to establish an actual connection between military service in Southwest Asia or Afghanistan and a specific disease.

The decision to add these presumptives was made after reviewing the 2006 report of the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine (NASIOM), titled, Gulf War and Health Volume 5: Infectious Diseases.

The 2006 report differed from the four prior reports by looking at the long-term health effects of certain diseases determined to be pertinent to Gulf War Veterans. Secretary Shinseki decided to include Afghanistan Veterans in these presumptions because NAS found that the nine diseases are also prevalent in that country. The 1998 Persian Gulf War Veterans Act requires the Secretary to review NAS reports that study scientific information and possible associations between illnesses and exposure to toxic agents by Veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War.

While the decision to add the nine new presumptives predates VA’s Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses Task Force (GWVI-TF), the overarching responsibility of the GWVI-TF is to regain Gulf War Veterans’ confidence in VA’s health care, benefits, and services and reconfirm that VA is 100 percent committed to Veterans of all eras. The GWVI-TF began in fall 2009 and is not a static, one-time initiative, but one that will continue to build on its work with annual reports issued every August. The group’s focus centers on unanswered Gulf War Veterans’ health issues, improving access to benefits, ensuring cutting edge research into treatments, and to making sure Veterans’ concerns are heard and addressed. This includes continuing to solicit Veterans, experts, advocates, and stakeholders to share their views to better inform the important work of the GWVI-TF. The GWVI-TF Report can be found at [www.VA.gov](http://www.VA.gov).

Disability compensation is a non-taxable monetary benefit paid to Veterans who are disabled as a result of an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service. Last year, VA received more than one million claims for disability compensation and pension. VA provides compensation and pension benefits to more than 3.8 million Veterans and beneficiaries.

Currently, the basic monthly rate of compensation ranges from \$123 to \$2,673 for Veterans without any dependents.

For information about health problems associated with military service in Southwest Asia and Afghanistan, and related VA programs, visit the following sites:

- <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/>
- <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/oefoif/index.asp>.
- <http://www.va.gov>
- [http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/compensation\\_benefits.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/compensation_benefits.asp).

We Brought Nothing into This World, and It Is Certain We Can Take Nothing Out

Q. What do the following people have in common?

- Sir Francis Drake
- Janis Joplin
- Werner Klemperer
- Steve McQueen
- Sir Arthur Dudley Pickman Rogers Pound
- Adolf Eichmann

A. They were all buried at sea in one way or another . . . .

And you can do the same. The United States Navy Mortuary Affairs Office oversees and regulates the Burial at Sea (BAS) program, which is a means of final disposition of remains that some Veterans just might prefer. (Don’t worry about joining Mr. Eichmann — his cremains were scattered over an unidentified location by the Israelis.) The committal ceremony is performed on United States Naval vessels while the ships are deployed, so family members are not allowed to be present. The commanding officer of the ship assigned to perform the ceremony will make notification of the date, time, latitude, and longitude of the committal service and relate this information to the family once the ceremony has been completed.

The particular ceremony is determined by the deceased’s religious persuasion. It begins upon command of the Captain, who orders the ship into the wind with just enough speed to keep the bow into the wind. The ship’s flags are brought to half-mast. The Captain conducts the appropriate religious service, at the end of which he or she reads the committal prayer. Following is a typical Christian invocation:

*It is our solemn duty to commit to the sea this mortal’s body/ashes. As we so do, we call trustfully upon God from whom all creation has life. May He in due time, by His power, bring to resurrection with all the saints, the body of our brother/sister, may God unite his/her soul with those of all the saints and faithful departed, may he/she be given a merciful judgment, so that*





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*redeemed from death, freed from punishment, reconciled to the Father, carried in the arms of the Good Shepherd, he/she may deserve to enter fully into everlasting happiness in the company of the eternal King together with all the saints.*

*Amen*

The casket bearers then tilt the platform up-ward allowing the casket/ashes to slide overboard into the sea. Taps is bugled.

Individuals eligible for this program are: (1) active duty members of the uniformed services; (2) retirees and Veterans who were honorably discharged; (3) U.S. civilian marine personnel of the Military Sealift Command; and (4) dependent family members of active duty personnel, retirees, and veterans of the uniformed services.

To get started, the Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD) of the individual for whom the request for Burial at Sea is being made (after his or her death, of course) should print out and complete the Burial at Sea Request Form (see the website link below). Supporting documents which must accompany this request are: (1) a photocopy of the death certificate; (2) the burial transit permit or the cremation certificate; and (3) a copy of the DD Form 214, discharge certificate, or retirement order.

A Burial Flag is required for all committal services performed aboard United States Naval vessels, with the exception of family members who are not authorized a burial flag. You may send a flag with the remains/cremains to be flown on the vessel during the committal service, which will be returned to you (the PADD) following the services at sea.

There are specific guidelines required for the remains/cremains. For more information, visit the following website: [http://www.navy.mil/navydata/navy\\_legacy\\_hr.asp?id=204](http://www.navy.mil/navydata/navy_legacy_hr.asp?id=204)



## Now Read This !

*Soldier from the War Returning*

by Thomas Childers

Reviewed by Robert Welsh

At the risk of being accused of nostalgic meandering, I'm afraid I am one of those who still clings — albeit restrictively — to one of the most enduring national perceptions surrounding the men and women who fought in World War II. This is the generation Tom Brokaw and others spoke of that fought heroically in a “good” war, and which then returned home to a welcoming America happy, well adjusted, and ready to get on with the business of life and rebuilding the country.

Well, I am a “baby boomer,” a product of that greatest generation, and one who owes everything he enjoys and respects today to the efforts and sacrifices those men and women made. My father was one of them. I am also a wounded veteran of

Continued on p. 10

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# History of Veterans Day

Adapted from the US Department of Veterans Affairs website.

World War I, known at the time as “The Great War,” officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919 — five years to the day after it began, technically, with the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie in the town of Sarajevo. The fighting had ceased, however, seven months earlier when an armistice between the warring parties went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...”

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m. The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, declaring November 11 to be a legal holiday.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938 made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday — a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.” Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen in the Nation’s history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word Armistice and inserting in its place the word “Veterans.” With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8<sup>th</sup>, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first “Veterans Day Proclamation” which stated:

*In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans’ organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting*

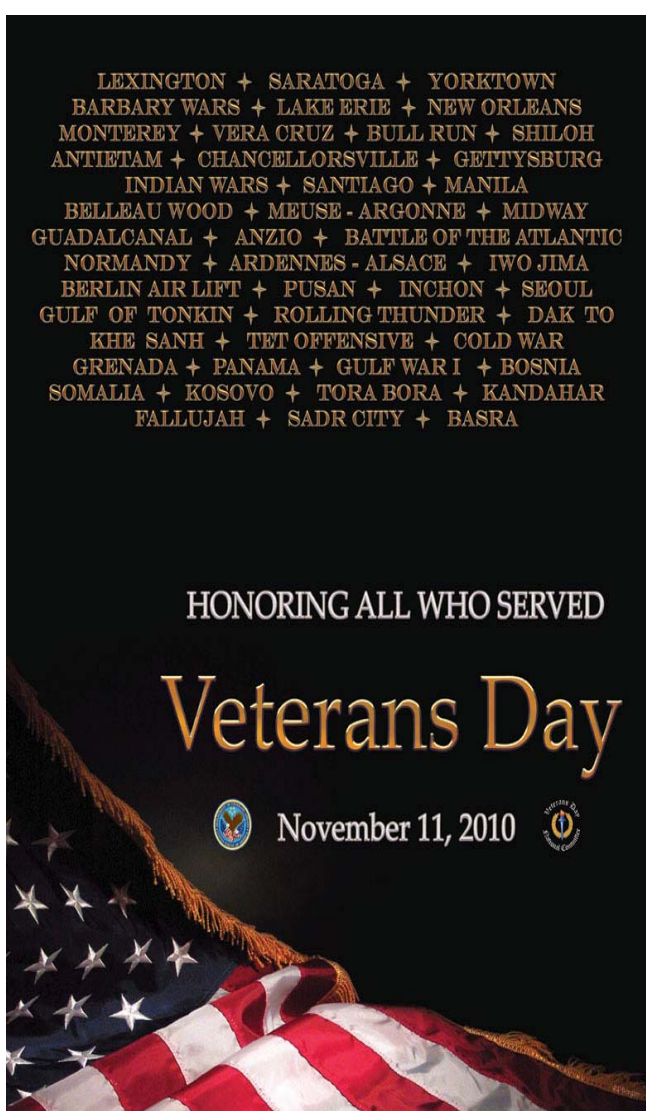
*the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible.*

President Eisenhower signing H R 7 7 8 6 , changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day



But, not all things work out as they are planned, and much misunderstanding surrounded just when this day should be celebrated. Ironically, the first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations, and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.



## From the Entire Staff at the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs

*We thank you for your service and wish you all the best on Veterans Day this year and for all the years to come . . .*

*Comrades known in marches many,  
Comrades tried in dangers many,  
Comrades bound by memories many,  
Brothers let us be.*

*Wounds or sickness may divide us,  
Marching orders may divide us,  
But whatever fate betide us,  
Brothers of the heart are we.*

*Comrades known by faith the clearest,  
Tried when death was near and nearest,  
Bound we are by ties the dearest,  
Brothers evermore to be.*

*And, if spared, and growing older,  
Shoulder still in line with shoulder,  
And with hearts no thrill the colder,  
Brothers ever we shall be.*

*By communion of the banner,  
Crimson, white, and starry banner  
By the baptism of the banner,  
Children of one Church are we.*

*Creed nor faction can divide us,  
Race nor language can divide us,  
Still, whatever fate betide us,  
Children of the flag are we.*

*Song of the Soldiers*  
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**Thank a Veteran at Work™**

**History™** invites you to participate in **Thank a Veteran at Work 2010**. Last year, our *Take a Veteran to School Day* program received a warm reception nationwide, linking veterans with young people in our communities and schools. *Thank a Veteran at Work* builds off that program, encouraging employers to take time out of the day to thank the many veterans in our workplaces. November 11th is Veterans Day, the official day of appreciation for our veterans. Take the time to thank the veterans at your workplace on or around that day.

Tips for how to participate in **Thank a Veteran at Work**:

1. Organize a morning get-together at your workplace with coffee, juice, and donuts. You may want to hang up a sign of thanks to veterans, or ask someone to say a few brief words of thanks at your gathering. Alternatively, you could host an informal buffet lunch or afternoon cake and coffee break in their honor.
2. **History** has created *Thank a Veteran at Work* stickers. Log on to [www.veterans.com](http://www.veterans.com) and look for the section on *Thank a Veteran at Work* to find out how to get these stickers at no charge, while supplies last.
3. Ask your CEO or a senior staff member to send an email message thanking the veterans in your workplace, and the vets who are family members of employees.
4. **History** offers free *Thank a Veteran at Work* announcements online to customize, download and print. Visit [www.veterans.com](http://www.veterans.com) to find these flyers and display them in offices, kitchens or other public locations.

Interested in the *Take a Veteran to School Day* program which connects veterans and schools? Visit [www.veterans.com](http://www.veterans.com) to find out how to get involved.



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the Vietnam War, and I know that these idyllic perceptions can often obscure a much grimmer reality. The simple fact of the matter is that no war is good for those who must fight it.

That is the premise that Childers takes in *Soldier from the War Returning*, his moving narrative of three veterans — an infantryman who loses his legs; an airman taken prisoner by the Germans; and his own father, who more or less sat out the war safe in England. Without entirely shattering the greatest generation persona, the author reveals the true cost of the war and the hardships returning veterans faced. Unemployment, homelessness, alcoholism, and alienation from family and friends are not things peculiar to today's society. They, too, had physical and psychological wounds that never healed.

Novelistic in its approach yet superbly researched, *Soldier from the War Returning* is a stern reminder that the cost of war can be ineffably high, and that war's detritus will most likely span generations.

Childers's writing is both terse and captivating. Here is one description in the story of American pilot Michael Gold after being shot down over Germany:

*A B-24 pilot from Philadelphia — a comedian in civilian life — was particularly popular, regaling them with wildly improbable stories spiced with exotic details — tales of women in Atlantic City elevators, of husbands returning unexpectedly, the farm girl with an appetite for honey, the cocktail waitress from Yonkers, the Sunday School teacher in the Pullman sleeper. The stories floated through the barracks after lights out, accompanied by raucous laughter and snorts of disbelief, until finally the conversation waned, and the barracks grew quiet. After a time, the nightmares began.*

The book is not without its faults — no book is. Blaming decades of failed marriages and failed businesses on the war is a tad beguiling; some of that is just the dross of everyday existence. But, Childers's eminently readable study can serve as an important clarification to those sometimes nostalgic tributes to the "good war's" legacy.



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- 02:15 AM—SAGE JUNCTION (EXIT 33 OFF FREEWAY 1-15)
- 02:45 AM—ASHTON (DAVE’S JUBILEE GROCERY STORE)
- 03:15 AM—ST. ANTHONY (MAVERICK STATION) (S. BRIDGE ST. AND 3<sup>RD</sup> S.)
- 03:45 AM--REXBURG (MAVERICK STATION) (MAIN ST. AND SECOND WEST)
- 04:15 AM—RIGBY (MAVERICK STATION MAIN AND CLARK ST.)
- 04:45 AM—IDAHO FALLS (CHEVRON and McDONALDS) (BROADWAY AND SATURN)
- 05:15 AM—BLACKFOOT (FLYING J) (228 PARKWAY DR)
- 05:30 AM-FORT HALL (GAS STATION BY CASINO)

SOUTHERN ROUTE

- 05:45 AM—POCATELLO (VET CENTER 1800 GARRET WAY) (WESTWOOD VILLAGE MALL)
- 06:15 AM—McCAMMON (FLYING.J) (BY FREEWAY 1-15)
- 06:30 AM-DOWNEY (FLAGS WEST TRUCK STOP) (OFF FREEWAY 1-15)
- 06:45 AM—MALAD (CHEVRON STATION) (EXIT 13 OFF FREEWAY 1-15)
- 07:15 AM—TREMONTON (SINCLAIR STATION) (EXIT 40 OFF HIGHWAY 84)
- 07:35 AM—BRIGHAM CITY (FLYING J EXIT 362 OFF 1-15)

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February	1, 3, 5, 9, 11, 17, 19, 23, 25
March	1, 3, 5, 9, 11, 15, 19, 21, 23, 25, 29, 31
April	2, 6, 8, 12, 14, 16, 20, 22, 26, 28, 30
May	4, 6, 10, 12, 14, 18, 20, 24, 26, 28
June	1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 15, 21, 23, 25, 29
July	1, 7, 9, 13, 15, 19, 21, 23, 27, 29
August	2, 4, 6, 10, 12, 16, 18, 20, 24, 26, 30
September	1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 17, 21, 23, 27, 29
October	1, 5, 7, 13, 15, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29
November	2, 4, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18, 22, 24, 26, 30
December	2, 6, 8, 10, 14, 16, 20, 22, 28, 30

January	5, 7, 11, 13, 15, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29
February	2, 4, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18, 22, 24, 26
March	2, 4, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18, 22, 24, 26, 30
April	1, 5, 7, 9, 13, 15, 19, 21, 23, 27, 29
May	3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27
June	2, 4, 8, 10, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24, 28, 30
July	2, 6, 8, 12, 14, 16, 20, 22, 26, 28, 30
August	3, 5, 9, 11, 17, 19, 23, 25, 27, 31
September	2, 8, 10, 14, 16, 20, 22, 24, 28, 30
October	4, 6, 12, 14, 18, 20, 22, 26, 28
November	1, 3, 5, 9, 13, 17, 19, 23, 25, 27
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